

## *From the Editor*

Despite the talk about sizing the Army for two major theater wars (MTWs), we face internal strategy and resource disconnects—and so do our sister services. In a recent article, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay Johnson and Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael Ryan admitted that neither of their services is a two-MTW force. Not only do US Armed Forces lack resources for the worst-case scenario; post-Cold War operations strain the military day to day. According to Secretary of Defense William Cohen, “We simply cannot carry out the missions that we have with the budget that we have. There is a mismatch. We have more to do and less to do it with, and that is starting to show in wear and tear on people, wear and tear on equipment.”

Don’t pin your hopes on a new administration, either, because the rest of the world doesn’t necessarily plan its bad-hair days around the first Tuesday in November. If you thought the Kosovo operation popped up out of nowhere, hold on to your Kevlar. Just wait until African strife dominates CNN. Imagine that internal conditions in Mexico and Panama deteriorate or that our relationship with China gets worse instead of better. What if Russian fears are realized and Chechen unrest overflows? This regional studies issue offers glimpses of potential trouble-spots that may lie far from Southwest or Southeast Asia—perhaps involving actors far different from traditional militaries or even nation-states.

Don’t despair. Text and data mining of even open sources can uncover enemy intentions. Military-to-military cooperation can shore up troubled governments. And should deployment of US forces become necessary, wing-in-ground effect technology may provide a practical alternative to traditional strategic air- and sealift. Our authors offer promising insights and analysis—all you have to do is read what they have developed and then go do the heavy lifting.

Let us hear from you.

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